



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary for
International Organization Affairs*

Washington, DC 20520-6319

December 6, 2013

Alejandro J. García-Padilla
Governor
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-0082

Dear Governor García-Padilla,

Thank you for your November 4 letter to Secretary Kerry requesting that the U.S. Department of State apply on behalf of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for Associate Member status at UNESCO. The request was not received in time for us to engage in the policy and legal analysis that would have been necessary for submission at the 37th plenary session of the UNESCO General Conference. As we have previously conveyed to representatives of the Commonwealth Department of State, however, the issues presented in the case of UNESCO are complex. We take seriously our commitment to a detailed, constructive dialogue regarding organizations and events where enhanced Puerto Rican engagement might be useful and appropriate.

In that vein, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta Jacobson invited Secretary of State David Bernier Rivera to participate in the Fourth Caribbean-United States Cooperative Security Dialogue on December 6 in Washington. This meeting was an opportunity for regional actors to discuss next steps on cooperation and information sharing to reduce illicit trafficking, promote social justice, and improve citizen security in the region.

Moving forward, we would propose regularized working level meetings to review Puerto Rico's interest in heightened engagement in regional and broader international settings. At a recent meeting, representatives of the Commonwealth agreed to provide us with a prioritized list of ten international organizations with which Puerto Rico is most interested in engaging. We believe that regular working-level meetings would provide a good setting to consider this, as well as other possibilities that we or your representatives may identify. To facilitate this process, the Secretary's Office of the Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs (S/SGIA) will serve as the State Department's main

point of contact. The S/SRGIA works closely with the White House's Domestic Policy Council, which coordinates the work of the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico. Luis Alvarez Jr., Senior Advisor to the Special Representative (AlvarezJrLR@state.gov, 202-647-7721), looks forward to working with your team.

Finally, in response to requests previously made by your representatives, S/SRGIA will facilitate the dissemination of Puerto Rican trade and promotional materials to the appropriate Embassy officers, including members of the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, in the region. As my colleagues discussed with your representatives, we look forward to receiving those materials so S/SRGIA may begin this process.

Sincerely,



H. Dean Pittman

Cc: Secretary David E. Bernier Rivera